



TRINITY TIMES

The Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hampstead, NC
www.holytrinityhampstead.com

March 2018

Triduum Sacrum

from Pamela †

I certainly had never heard the term until I was well into my first year of seminary. Even though my dad was a priest and had been taught in liturgics by one of the proponents of prayer book renewal, he never mentioned it in the early years after seminary.

When I was in graduate school in Birmingham I sang in the choir of a small Anglo-Catholic Episcopal church near the campus. Early in Lent we began to practice music for Easter. Eventually it dawned on me that the service was to begin at 11 pm. I allowed as how I had only heard of "midnight mass" at Christmas. Of course, it wasn't midnight mass for Easter it was the **Great Vigil**.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church defines **triduum sacrum**: "(Lat. "the sacred three days) as the three concluding days of Holy Week commemorating the Last Supper, Passion, and Death of Christ, i.e. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday." (pg. 1393-4)

TRIDUUM SACRUM



Our current Book of Common Prayer has a section called *Proper Liturgies for Special Days*. In adding this section to the prayer book, the Episcopal

Church was finally acknowledging the importance of these most sacred of days in the Christian calendar.

Properly, the triduum begins on Thursday evening. The Priest's Handbook says the following of Maundy Thursday:

"A Seder in the place of the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday is not in keeping with the emphasis of this day: a) the institution of the Holy Eucharist; b) the law of love, symbolized in the washing of feet; and c) the beginning of the celebration of the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Pg.184)

Our service on **Maundy Thursday**, while being unique, is in keeping with how the early church might have celebrated the event in the life of our Savior. In some

places, reserve sacrament is blessed at this Eucharist to be administered at the Good Friday Liturgy, as the Eucharist is never celebrated on Good Friday. If the sacrament is reserved, there is a watch from the end of the service until the beginning of the service on Good Friday.

The **Good Friday Liturgy** begins in silence just the way the service on Maundy Thursday ended. It includes the Passion narrative from the Gospel according to John, the Solemn Collects and the veneration of the cross, and ends in silence as it began.

This is a most solemn liturgy and is far different than what I grew up with as a child in the Episcopal church, which was usually some adaptation of a compilation of Jesus' last words from four different stories. It lasted for three hours, but people came in and out at various times, very distracting for a child.

According to The Priest's Handbook, "*the **Great Vigil of Easter** is the culmination of the sacred celebration of Holy Week and the beginning of the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. It is the climax of the Christian Year and unfolds in scripture, psalm, Sacrament and liturgy the story of redemption.*"

After my year in graduate school I never again experienced the Great Vigil until the year before seminary when one of my nieces was baptized at the Vigil and I was in charge of her 18-month-old older sister who just wanted to run around. Not so acceptable at that parish in those days. The Great Vigil of Easter is the primary service of Easter in much of the north and Midwest. Alas, it hasn't caught on in much of the south as it has been my favorite service for many years.

If you have never experienced all three of these services in succession as part of your Lenten piety, consider doing so this year. It will broaden your experience of Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Savior.



Schedule of Services

Please try to come to one, several, or all of the services listed below. They can be powerful reminders of whose we are!

- Sun., Mar 25, 10 am **PALM SUNDAY:** Holy Eucharist
- Mon., Mar 26, 7 pm **TAIZÉ:** Chant and Meditation
- Tues., Mar 27, 10 am **HEALING:** Sacrament of Healing and Holy Eucharist
- Wed., Mar 28, 6:30 pm **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
- Thurs., Mar 29, 6 pm **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Dinner, Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing (opt), Stripping of the Altar
- Fri., Mar 30, Noon **GOOD FRIDAY**
- Sat., Mar 31, 8 pm **EASTER VIGIL:** Holy Eucharist
- Sun., Apr 1, 10 am **EASTER:** Holy Eucharist



Help Needed...

- ★ **FOOD, FOOD, FOOD:** Sweet and savory goodies for the Easter Reception after service, April 1. **Make your favorite dishes to share!** 
- ★ **FLOWER DONATIONS FOR EASTER LILIES:** Please take a donation envelope (found in the pouches in the Sanctuary) and give a donation for Holy Trinity to purchase Easter lilies to decorate the church. List your "Memorial" or "Thanksgiving" on the envelope & put it in the offering plate. **Let's make Holy Trinity beautiful!** 
- ★ **SMALL WRAPPED CANDIES OR TOYS:** Our Youth Group is, once again, sponsoring an **Easter Egg Hunt** after service on Easter. They need plastic eggs and wrapped candy or toys to load into those eggs for hiding. **Help them make this memorable for the children on Easter!** 

- ★ **HELP TO SET UP/TAKE DOWN SANCTUARY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY:** We'll begin moving chairs/kneelers and putting up tables at 9 am on Thurs., Mar. 29, and again on Fri., Mar. 30, at 9 am, to put it all back together again in time for Noonday Good Friday Service. Any and all help appreciated. **Many hands will make it go quicker!**
- ★ **PREPARE COFFEE HOUR REFRESHMENTS OR YOUTH DINNER ON SUNDAYS:** The signup sheets are in the Narthex. The same people sign up each year. Let's get some new blood. It's not difficult. Anyone who has done it before can help you. There are instructions on the fridge in the kitchen. **Let's fill up the empty dates!**

Parish Life

We had a very successful **Tailgate Potluck** on February 4. It was Standing Room Only and the food was fabulous! Many of us enjoyed **Brunch** on February 11 at Nineteen, the restaurant at Olde Point Country Club.

Looking forward: **Maundy Thursday dinner on March 29, 6 pm.** Doris Cook, Jackie Redington and Pat Gopsill will coordinate. Dave Mahoney will secure men to grill the chicken. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for people to bring salad, bread, olives, and nuts to complete our meal. **PLEASE SIGN UP TO ATTEND** since there will be assigned seats.

In April, a baseball game outing at UNCW will be scheduled and possibly a mini-golf outing at Shipwreck Point, Surf City for May. Look for more details.

If you have any ideas for Parish Life activities, please contact Pat Gopsill, pgopsill@gmail.com.

Pat Gopsill, Parish Life Ministry

If you've never been to a Taizé service, it's worth trying. It only lasts half an hour and is a tranquil way to end a busy day. Taizé Prayer is a form of prayer that originated in the Taizé Community in France. It is meant to focus and deepen our faith through the power of collective prayer. It is a candlelight service filled with silent meditation, reflection, readings, and music. All are welcome to join in or sit quietly



Stewardship: To Excel at Giving

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: *“Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you— so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.”* (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ himself. Even though he was rich, he became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in his grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in his grace can excel in pressing his grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart

has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached on Sunday.

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

Economy Money Budget Finance Spending

	Month Ended Jan. 31, 2018	Year to Date Jan. 31, 2018	Annual Budget 2018
Pledged Offerings	\$ 9,119.00	\$ 9,119.00	\$119,155.00
Total Income	\$ 9,561.40	\$ 9,561.40	\$141,415.00
Total Expenses	\$13,235.95	\$13,235.95	\$146,239.88

A BIG thank you to all who have contributed. It’s never too late to write a check to Holy Trinity!

News and Notes from Outreach

On January 11, Holy Trinity sponsored a forum for area residents to learn about the opioid crisis, one of North Carolina’s most persistent health problems. The event was well-attended and covered by local TV. Pender Co. Sheriff Smith and deputies educated the group as to current practices that law enforcement has in place to address our area situation. Audience participants spoke from the floor and enlightened us about new 501(c)3 charitable organizations that have been established by local persons in response to the need that opioid addiction presents...homelessness, recovery, loss of jobs/income, family support needs and more.

Interest in continuing the communication about area resources was strong following the forum and Holy Trinity would like to sponsor another public forum emphasizing programs that are readily available in our area for persons struggling with addiction and recovery.

The Outreach Ministry will plan and organize the next forum and expect to have several speakers representing these organizations. Look for news regarding this event in future weeks. It looks as if

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Outreach (from page 3)

April 2018, following Easter, will be the month we set for our second forum. Stay tuned!

In the interim, please continue to support the **Backpack Program**, providing week-end meals for area students and the **4-C's Food Pantry** food collection. *Cereals, Complete Meals, P-nut butter, pasta and sauces (all in non-breakable containers, for the school Backpack Collection) and canned vegetables/fruits, boxed food items for the 4 C's.* groups that support separate needs.

Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 4 Baxter Phillips
- 11 Judy Bradley
- 15 Ashley Ketner
- 16 Bob Ronne
- 19 Joanne Muller
- 20 Marguerite Ayers



Please come on Wednesdays at 6 pm for a half-hour Lenten Service featuring the Acts of the Apostles.

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Sat., March 10.



In order to make our church look its best at Easter and at all times, we have to do some work! We have scheduled Cleanup Days at the church and we hope everyone will come out to help. There is a signup in the Narthex.

Sat. March 10, 9am-Noon INDOOR CLEANUP

Bring your favorite broom or mop or other cleaning tools.

Sat. March 17, 9am-Noon OUTDOOR CLEANUP

We'll tackle the grounds this time – raking, trimming, weeding. Bring your gardening tools.

Vestry News

When we reviewed the comments from our recent cottage meetings, one area that people felt needed improvement was **communications**. To address this concern, we have been trying to project information about upcoming activities on a computer in the narthex on Sundays.

It has been difficult. The TV we have been using is on loan. If anyone has a 26" (or larger) flat screen TV (a Smart TV would be amazing!) and is willing to donate it to the church, it would greatly enhance the presentation. Please see Norm Gopsill.

This current Vestry is totally committed to improving Holy Trinity in every avenue, not only the physical plant, but in enriching the lives of all members. Please help us by submitting your ideas to make this a reality. Talk to Sr. Warden Lynn Ruhnke or any other member of the Vestry, or place written ideas in Lynn's mailbox in the office.

All members of your Vestry are looking forward to serving the parish this year. Please let us know how we can improve.

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.”
I John 4:14

Jesus, the Savior

I think it's true that none of us show up on the scene ready to go, fully complete. Our first instinct, as soon as our lungs are cleared, is to cry out for help as loud as we can.

-Br. Jim Woodrum

A few years ago, I got into an argument with a friend when I made the statement that I didn't believe in the “self-made” man. He pushed back a little bit, and he said, "But Jim, your success as a musician has been the result of your hard study and your hard work in the practice room, and in your courage to take an audition when there were many other people who could play the part just as well as you." And whilst some of that is true, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize that there were many people in my life who actually nurtured my love of music, who taught me how to read music, who taught me how to practice efficiently and how to showcase the ways that I could perform the part that was unique to me, and that might win the audition.

As a matter of fact, I think it's true that *none* of us show up on the scene ready to go, fully complete. Our first instinct, as soon as our lungs are cleared, is to cry out for help as loud as we can. I believe that this is what the Johannine community was witnessing to when they wrote, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world." I believe we never really fully outgrow the instinct to cry for help. But how the love of God is made manifest in our life is by the fact that Jesus has come into our lives and into our human condition, to be with us, to guide us, to walk with us and to help nurture the things that we need in order to be fully alive, to be more completely who God has created us to be.

So maybe in your prayer life, maybe you would want to focus on: “What in my life needs help? Where can I not go it alone? Where do I need God's help and love and provision in order to take the next step?” This is how God is waiting to meet us in our lives. All we have to do is ask.

Brother Jim Woodrum
Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE)

To receive a few inspirational words each day, go to www.ssje.org and subscribe – it's free! Mother Pam often quotes from it in her sermons.

Easter Reminder

- Everyone bring your “Hope Chests” of money for Episcopal Relief & Development. A check with ERD in the memo line will suffice.
- Bring cut flowers to be used for the traditional “Flowering of the Cross” by youth.

135th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina, February 8-10, New Bern

Our delegates to convention were Sharon Seago and Bruce Pennington. Carolyn was our alternate. They all reported that they enjoyed seeing how the Diocese works!





Each month, we will highlight one of the wild and crazy holidays our nation (and the world) celebrates....just for the fun of it!

March's Wacky Holiday:
March 12: Plant a Flower Day

Plant a Flower Day is a day to get a little dirt under your fingernails. Take a few minutes to plant a flower today.

Gardening is a great hobby. It's enjoyed by millions of people, old and young alike. It's a hobby that virtually everyone can participate in, regardless of age, and health. Senior citizens love it, as they can garden long after they give up other hobbies and sports.

Identifying the correct date for celebrating Plant a Flower Day has proved frustrating and a bit futile. As we researched this day, we found multiple dates in March and May for Plant a Flower Day. March 12 was the most common one.

Celebrate today by planting or transplanting any kind of plant. It can be done indoors, or weather permitting, outdoors.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Holy Eucharist Begins Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
107 Deerfield Road
Hampstead, NC 28443

"Leading, Listening, Loving, and Sharing through Christ"